(c) Difference between Economic Cost and the Central Issue Price is paid to the FCI as consumer subsidy. Therefore the consumers are benefited to the extent to which they draw/get these foodgrains through P.D.S./ R.P.D.S. as such supplies are made at Central Issue Price which is lower than the Economic Cost.

[English]

Shifting of Polluting Industrial Units

1645. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of industrial units in major cities have been issued notices for shifting locations by the respective State Pollution Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of such units shifted during the last three years; and

(d) the time bound action plan formulated for shifting of the polluting industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Afforestation

1646. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments to check cutting of the trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also reviewed the afforestation programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Union Government has directed to States and Union Territories, where forest cover has declined, to make an indepth analysis of factors contributing to depletion of forest cover and make all out efforts to step up afforestation programmes.

(c) and (d) National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) within the Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency to allocate annual targets for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme to each State and Union Territory on the basis of funds available. The annual achievements are monitored and reviewed by the NAEB as under:

(i) The annual afforestation data provided by the States/UTs are kept in the library of the Parliament and the Ministry of Environment and Forests to enable elected representatives to have a ready access to the data.

(ii) Every year 10% of the districts in the Country are selected, with appropriate regional distribution, for evaluation of the afforestation activities by autonomous institutions/NGOs/voluntary agencies/ regional centres of NAEB/retired forest officials.

Smuggling of Explosive Material

1647 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the explosive material was smuggled into the country from the ports and airports;

(b) if not, the ways and means of its entry into the country; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to prevent the smuggling of the explosive material into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Recently there have been instances wherein arms, ammunition, explosives etc., were smuggled into the country mainly through international borders. Government is alive to the situation created by antinational elements and is taking all necessary steps to thwart the evil designs of such forces, which includes gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and close coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

Cutting of Trees in Madhya Pradesh

1648. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware that trees worth lakhs of rupees have been cut down in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh in connivance with the Government officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated value of the trees cut down;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.